

# LASCA LEAVES



Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens



Deanna Bracci

## NEW ENTRYWAY VISTA FEATURES BOG GARDEN AND WEEP WALL

VISITORS to the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum can now visit the newly completed Entryway Vista featuring a bog garden and weep wall. Construction of the garden west of Bauer Pool began in February. The designer, Fred Lang, also designed Meadow-

brook and the interpretive center in the Prehistoric and Jungle Garden. Brad Cooke is the contractor.

According to Director Francis Ching, bog gardens and weep walls are not a common outdoor attraction in Southern California. "It will be an interesting experience for everyone."

The view from Baldwin Avenue beyond Bauer Pool reveals a path-

*Shown in the photograph above— young sedges, Colocasia species and rushes begin to take root in the bog garden. On the weep wall, star jasmine (Trachelospermum jasminoides) rims the top while lily turf (Liriope), mondo grass (Ophiopogon) and moneywort (Lysimachia) fill spaces in the porous tufa rock.*





Fissures in the rough-surfaced tufa weep wall harbor roots of water-loving plants.

way of stepping pads arranged like islands in the lawn around the front of a seven-foot tall weep wall covered with tufa, a porous volcanic rock. Embedded in the crevices of the wall are ornamental plants that thrive in Southern California using the constant moisture provided by the weep wall.

Dwarf mondo grass predominates. Moneywort (*Lysimachia nummular-*

*ia*) a summer - blooming herb with yellow flowers, and lily turf (*Liriope*) will add color to the wall.

Moisture is supplied by irrigation tubes built into the wall. The drip is slow and constant as it seeps through the wall to the clinging roots of the moisture loving plants.

The other side of the wall is covered by slabs of beige Santa Maria rock. The wall rises above a shallow pond—the bog garden. The bog remains moist throughout the year from accumulated runoff from the weep wall. Iris offer the most popular and colorful planting in the bog while the four-leaf water clovers (*Marsilea spp.*) provide decorative finishes. Tropical plants like the spider lily (*Hymenocallis acutifolia*) and aquatic herbs are also well represented.

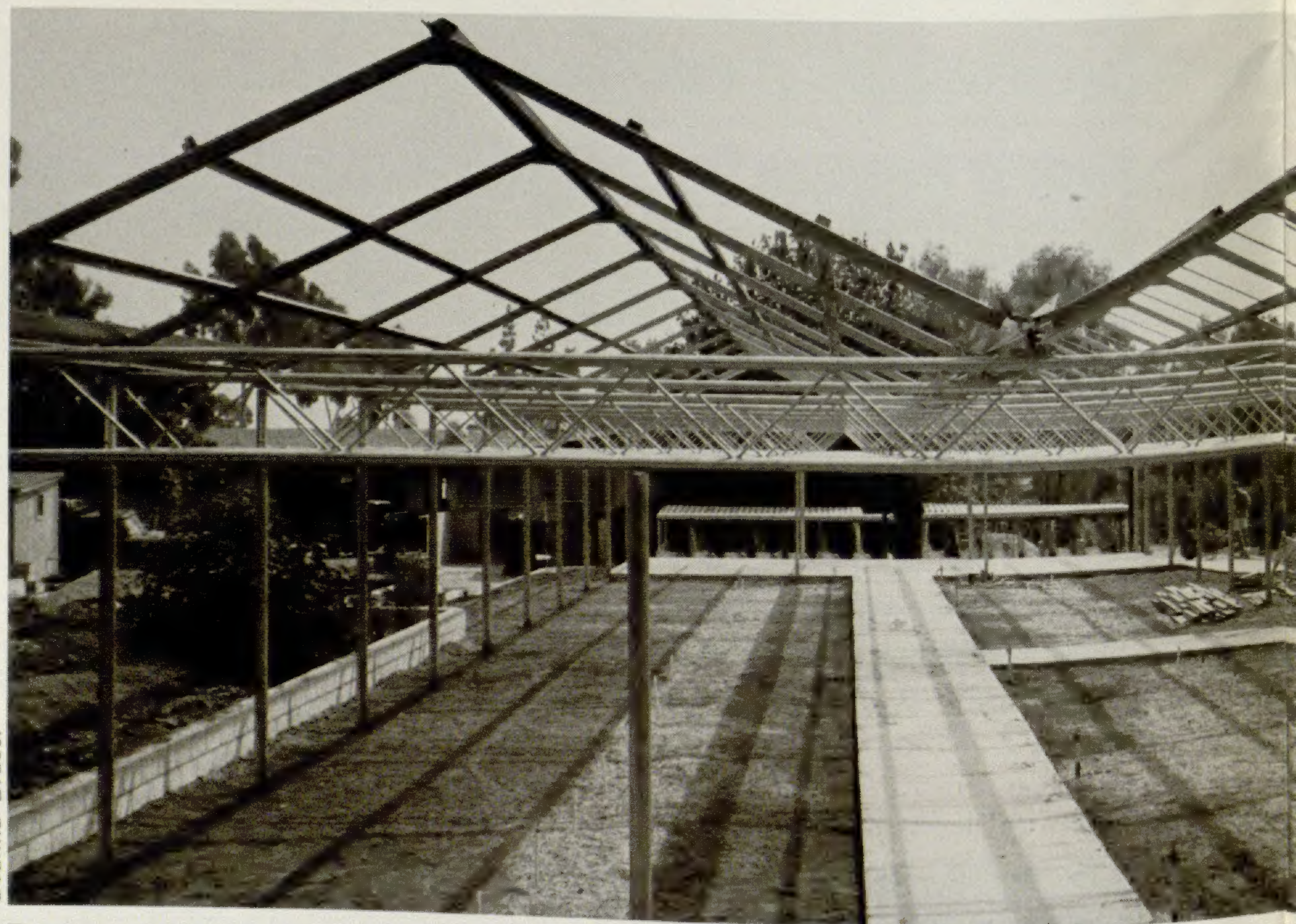
The abundance of moisture in the garden will provide visitors with colorful flowers and lush greenery throughout the year. A panoramic view of the garden can be enjoyed from two curved benches near the road.

## INNOVATIVE DEVICES INCREASE EFFICIENCY IN NEW GREENHOUSE

WHEN IT'S COMPLETED later this season the new orchid greenhouse will occupy more than 4,500 square feet between the Research Building and the Service Yard. This clearspan, metal-framed structure is the first of its kind on the grounds and will replace older greenhouses. Arthur Enterprises began construction early this summer.

A new feature that eliminates side aisles in this innovative greenhouse increases growing space by 20 percent. In traditional greenhouses, only about 65 percent of the area can be used for growing space.

The additional bench area comes from rolling benches. These metal benches can be pushed by hand to space at either end to open an aisle for access to plants when they need special attention. When in normal position, the benches form an unbroken surface from one end of the greenhouse to the other. The benches roll on a framework of galvan-



Design of the new orchid greenhouses at the Arboretum eliminates interior posts and lateral aisles to increase growing space.

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ized steel pipes supported by a stationary pipe base that rises from the floor.

Most greenhouses have a standard center aisle with perpendicular side aisles. The new greenhouse will have the center aisle but no regularly spaced lateral aisles. This offers easy access to the plants by foot or by small electric carts.

Plants inside the new greenhouse will receive the full spectrum of sunlight. Ceiling and walls are made of Dynaglass, a polycarbonated plastic made by Paltough. Clear as glass, it won't break and tests show that it will last 20 years. Unlike fiberglass, this material will not change color over time.

An added feature of the greenhouse is a motorized screen. This shade can be rolled from the top of one wall to the top of the opposite wall parallel to the floor. On bright days the cover will screen out 64% of the sunlight, while on gloomy days the screen can be retracted to allow maximum light.

Orchidist Earl Ross will run the greenhouse from an office on the

south end. This space will also be used for propagating orchid seedlings for the Arboretum.

Instead of using evaporative coolers as the normal cooling device, large water-soaked pads will be placed at the north end of the greenhouse. Fans at the south end pull air through the pads which picks up moisture, cooling and humidifying the greenhouse. Air cir-

ulation and exchange is accomplished more efficiently and evenly.

In cool weather, long tubes connected to jet fans deliver heated air evenly through the greenhouse. A mist system installed under the roll-top benches controls humidity.

The new greenhouse will provide better growing conditions for orchids which in turn will help with research and service to the public.

## HOLIDAY SEASON BEGINS EARLY AT THE ARBORETUM

IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY for the Holiday spirit. With Christmas about a month away, the Holiday season has already begun. November is a shopping month and what more appropriate place to shop than at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum's Gift Shop Open House on Nov. 12-13 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. By acting now, in December shoppers will be ready to relax and enjoy the holidays.

On Dec. 11, visitors can tour the Queen Anne Cottage during an open house from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Plagued by a violent wind storm last year, the open house was canceled, so anticipation this year will be even greater.

The gift shop will be filled with irresistible scents as visitors are invited to "Celebrate Christmas with Fragrance." Year around gift items can be purchased for the Holiday season. Keeping with the theme, sweet-smelling potpourris and pomander balls to hold the mixture of scented dried flower petals or herbs can be purchased. Fragrant soaps and colognes are a perfect gift for a man or woman.

This season is also the time for entertaining. The gift shop will not only fill your nose with tantalizing fragrances, but also delight your appetite with festive food and drink mixes on sale now. Easy to make dips and muffin mixes can become mouth-watering hors d'oeuvres,

while teas and jams can be served for informal afternoon gatherings. Hot-spiced cider makes a nice drink for the cool-weathered holidays. For added sparkle, drink mixes such as English wassail or Swedish glog can be purchased. Cookbooks with Holiday food ideas can also enliven season entertaining.

Your garden as well as your house can be filled with aromatic delights. Fragrant flowering plants such as scented geraniums, paper white narcissus and hyacinth bulbs can color your garden for outside entertaining.

If you want gifts with a more personalized appeal, stop by the gift shop anytime between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. and learn how to make



Offerings in the Arboretum gift shop encourage shoppers to "Celebrate Christmas with Fragrance."

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your own gifts. The lesson Saturday is on how to make dried flower arrangements and Sunday on planted baskets. Some of the basic materials will be available in the gift shop.

Whether for year around Holiday gift items or cooking and gardening purchases, there is something for everyone.

Finishing touches for the gift shop open house will include complimentary cider and cookies. In the center of the shop a fresh Christmas tree decorated with pot-pourri ornaments will capture the spirit of the Holidays.

By December packages can be wrapped and celebrations should begin to soothe the hustle and bustle of preparations. It's time to relax, so take yourself back to a Victorian Christmas at the Queen Anne Open House.

The century-old house celebrates

the Holiday, and it happens only once a year. On Dec. 11 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Arboretum visitors will have a chance to walk through the Baldwin home that they admired through windows during the rest of the year. Arboretum docents will explain the furnishings and Baldwin family mementoes on guided tours through the historical building.

Most of the rooms will be decorated with Holiday frills from the Victorian age. The bedroom will light up the eyes of children; a fresh tree will be surrounded by antique toys and children's ornaments will fill the tree. The parlor and the music room will also capture the spirit with trees decorated with century old ornaments and Christmas cards.

An additional \$1 charge for the Cottage tour will benefit the Historical Preservation Fund at the Ar-

boretum.

The Santa Anita Depot, the Coach Barn and the Hugo Reid Adobe will also be part of the Arboretum's Christmas celebration. The Coach Barn housed carriages and horses owned by the Baldwin family. Visitors can walk through the barn and see the tally-ho carriage Baldwin purchased at the nation's centennial fair in Philadelphia. Also on display will be the farm tools once used on the Rancho Santa Anita estate. The tools were recently restored by volunteer Perry Minton. Throughout the day docents will demonstrate and explain how the tools were used.

Santa Anita Depot, built in 1890 by the Santa Fe Railroad, will also have docent-led tours. The upstairs kitchen and living quarters will be decorated for Christmas; the baggage room, not normally open, can also be seen.



*Christmas decorations and antique costumes on Kathi Van Slyke, Kelley Golden, Adam Van Slyke and Barbara Kovacic (from left) evoke a nostalgic Christmas*

*scene in the Queen Anne Cottage music room. Public tours of the Cottage on Dec. 11 will benefit the historic restoration fund.*



# Four New Plants

by James Bauml

THE LOS ANGELES State and County Arboretum proudly announces the release of four new plant introductions for 1987 and 1988 to supplement the more than 100 plants already presented to the public through its plant introduction program.

## **Callistemon montanus** "Mountain Bottlebrush"

Originating in Queensland and New South Wales, Australia, the mountain bottlebrush is a small to medium-size bushy shrub with an erect to spreading habit. It ranges in size from five or six feet up to 12 feet high and to six feet wide. The bright red flower spikes about two inches long and as wide are abundant in spring; more flowers often follow in autumn. During bursts of vegetative growth, the young shoots emerge in attractive hues of bronzy-red or pink.

Two different seed accessions of *Callistemon montanus* have been cultivated at the Arboretum. The first of these importations came in 1967; the other arrived in 1977. Both seed samples originated at the botanical garden at Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.

*Callistemon montanus* has proven adaptable to a variety of exposures and soils. It is very tolerant of cold temperatures and wind. It will



*Mountain bottlebrush (Callistemon montanus), a medium-sized shrub, survives cold and shade in Southland gardens.*



flower well in part shade. Propagation is by both seeds and cuttings.

### ***Acacia saligna***

"Golden Wreath Wattle"

Native to Western Australia, the golden wreath wattle has proven to be a trouble-free, adaptable, fast-growing medium-sized shrub, or, more frequently, a small tree reaching a maximum height of 30 feet and a width of 18 feet. The gray-green branchlets are often pendulous, especially when the plant is in bloom. What appear to be leaves are actually phyllodes (flattened leaf stalks). Most often gray-green in color, they are willow-like, varying in size from three to 12 inches long and from ½ to 3 inches wide. Numerous golden-yellow flowers in heads from ¼ to ½ inch diameter appear in the spring at the ends of the branchlets.

The first record of this species at the Arboretum was a plant accessioned in 1955 from the USDA Plant Experiment Station in Coconut Grove, Florida, as Plant Introduction Number 222139. However, the fate of this early accession is unclear. In 1962, seeds of *Acacia saligna* were imported from the botanical garden at Adelaide, South Australia, and one plant from that lot is still alive on the Arboretum grounds. Additional seed samples were received in 1963, 1984, and 1985.

*Acacia saligna* is frost-resistant and grows well in light or heavy soils with moderate to good drainage. It may be propagated either by seeds or by cuttings.

### ***Leptospermum juniperinum***

'Horizontalis'

This handsome groundcover spreads to 10 feet across and mounds to a height of five to six feet. Its abundant horizontal arching branches, pendulous toward the tips, are so dense they do not allow

weed growth from below. The small, tightly packed bright green leaves have pointed tips. Like its relative, *L. laevigatum*, it produces ½ inch white flowers in the spring.

Cuttings of this clone were imported by Frank Simerly in 1978 from the Forest Native Nursery in New South Wales, Australia. Plants from that importation are still thriving in Section B6/SE.

Simulating a graceful cascade of green seafoam, *Leptospermum juniperinum* 'Horizontalis' is destined to become a popular medium-tall groundcover and bank cover. While thriving in sunny situations, it also succeeds well in dry shade. Given good drainage, it is adaptable to a range of soils, and it is very frost resistant.

### ***Combretum coccineum***

"Lemur Creeper"

This striking vine from the island of Madagascar is an evergreen woody vine that climbs to 20 feet. It has handsome glossy undulate-margined leaves to four inches long. In summer, it produces flat sprays of flowers at the ends of the branches. These numerous bright rose-pink flowers are each up to ½ inch across with eight delicate filamentous stamens.

Director Francis Ching is responsible for bringing *Combretum coccineum* to the Arboretum in 1979. He obtained two plants as well as seeds from plant explorer Mardy Darian who collected the showy and then-unidentified vine on a trip to Madagascar. New plants have been



*Willow-like phyllodes and form of the golden wreath wattle (Acacia saligna) make this 1988 Arboretum introduction a graceful addition to small gardens.*



propagated from the seeds of these original plants.

Like its New World relative and earlier introduction *Combretum fruticosum*, the lemur creeper is best admired on a fence or trellis where its branches can cascade gracefully and where it receives protection from occasional hard frosts. It does well in sunny locations and produces a curious five-winged fruit which is light green with a pink tinge.

All four plants may be obtained from the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum.

*James Bauml is senior biologist and taxonomist with the Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens.*

*(Photos by LuAnn Munns)*



*Five-winged fruit shown on the right follows the rose-pink flowers on *Combretum coccineum*, introduced by the Arboretum.*



*Arching branches of the 1988 Arboretum introduction *Leptospermum juniperinum* 'Horizontalis' form a mound up to 10 feet across.*



# Louise Mandrell Sings at the Arboretum



*Flo Waltrip (above) chooses among the delicacies at a Hawaiian feast sponsored by the Arcadia Chamber of Commerce. The elaborate spread was an entry in the picnic contest before the Aug. 20 concert. At right, Louise Mandrell serenades Los Angeles County firefighter Bill Masten with "Tennessee Hound Dawg." (Photos by Sheila Thompson, Foothill Inter-City Newspapers)*

## LOS ANGELES STATE AND COUNTY ARBORETUM, Arcadia

**NOVEMBER 12-13—9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**  
Gift Shop Open House  
California Arboretum Foundation

**NOVEMBER 19-20—**  
Sat. 9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Sun. 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Bonsai Show  
Santa Anita Bonsai Society

**DECEMBER 3-4 —**  
Sat. 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Sun. 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Camellia Show  
Pacific Camellia Society

**DECEMBER 11 — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**  
Queen Anne Open House  
California Arboretum Foundation

**JANUARY 28-29 —**  
10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Bonsai Show  
Baikoen Bonsai Society

**JANUARY 29 — 9 a.m. until sold out**  
Bulb Sale  
Southern California Gladiolus Society

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**NOVEMBER, DECEMBER, JANUARY**

### DESCANSO GARDENS, La Canada Flintridge

**OCTOBER 21 — NOVEMBER 23 —**  
9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Artists of the Month  
Barbara Janusz and Edward Park

**NOVEMBER 5-6 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**  
Ikebana Show  
International Ikebana Society,  
Los Angeles Chapter

**DECEMBER 3-11 — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**  
Christmas Show  
Descanso Gardens Guild

### SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN, Palos Verdes Peninsula

**NOVEMBER 6 — 2 p.m.**  
Water talk  
Ron Brown, Metropolitan Water  
District

**NOVEMBER 13 — 2 p.m.**  
Hawaii lecture  
Gene Wilhelm, Hawaiian Visitors  
Bureau

**NOVEMBER 20 — 2 p.m.**  
Wreath demonstration  
Susan Seamans

**DECEMBER 4 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**  
Craft boutique  
South Coast Botanic Foundation

**DECEMBER 11 — 2 p.m.**  
Christmas singers  
Ellis Orpheus Chorus

**DECEMBER 18 — 2 p.m.**  
Christmas concert  
Palos Verdes Symphonic Band

**JANUARY 22 — noon to 4 p.m.**  
Origami Festival  
Beth Glogovcsan

**JANUARY 28-29 —**  
Sat. 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Sun. 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Camellia Show  
South Coast Camellia Society  
Country Cottage Crafts  
Craftspeople and Artists